

Race to the Top Program
Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions
Addendum 4
Updated January 13, 2010

C-8. Will the Department cover the costs incurred by grantees in traveling to Race to the Top technical assistance workshops?

States will pay for travel expenses to technical assistance workshops out of their Race to the Top grants. While the Department has not yet finalized its specific technical assistance plan for Race to the Top, we intend to provide a vigorous level of technical assistance to Race to the Top grantees with several anticipated meetings each year. As the Department finalizes its technical assistance plan for Race to the Top grantees, it will work with grantees to make needed adjustments to their Race to the Top budgets.

D-6 Will reviewers' comments for all applications be made public?

Yes. The Department plans to post reviewers' comments for each application – both successful and unsuccessful—on its Web site soon after the conclusion of each phase of the competition. The names of the reviewers will be redacted.

D-7. Will peer reviewers read an application assigned to them in their entirety or will they review only some sections of a State's application?

All peer reviewers will read every application assigned to them in its entirety.

I-2. Where can States find further guidance on identifying “persistently lowest-achieving schools” for purposes of the Race to the Top program?

The Department has recently published updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guidance for the Title I School Improvement Grants program pertaining to the identification of persistently lowest-achieving schools, available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/sif/faq.html>. Because the intervention models in Race to the Top and the School Improvement Grants programs are aligned, States' questions related to persistently lowest-achieving schools and Race to the Top may be answered by the School Improvement Grants FAQ document. In particular, please see Section A – Definitions. Additionally, Addendum 1 to the School Improvement Grants FAQ also contains guidance regarding whether or not an SEA may exclude certain schools from its list of persistently lowest-achieving schools.

J-6. Under criterion (F)(2)(i), States are asked to submit, as evidence, the number and types of charter schools currently operating in the State. What does “types” mean in this context?

In some States, charter laws define different types of charter schools, which may be subject to different requirements. Hypothetically, a State might define under law “Excellence” charter schools and “Innovation” charter schools. In response to this request for evidence,

a State should explain the types of charter schools and differences between them under the law, if any, and provide the number of each type of charter school operating.

L-10. Must a State adhere to the recommended page limits?

As stated in the Application, the Department recommends that applicants limit their narrative responses in Section VI of the application to no more than 100 pages of State-authored text, and limit their appendices to no more than 250 pages. These page limits are recommended, but not required.

L-11. May activities pertaining to an invitational priority be included in the State's budget?

Yes. States' budgets under Race to the Top may include work related to invitational priorities.

L-12. Are there "supplement, not supplant" requirements for Race to the Top?

Race to the Top contains no "supplement, not supplant" requirements.

L-13. What funds are included under the definition of total revenues available to the State?

"Total revenues available to the State" is defined in the Race to the Top Application and notices. This term means either (a) projected or actual total State revenues for education and other purposes for the relevant year; or (b) projected or actual total State appropriations for education and other purposes for the relevant year. Notably, "total revenues available to the State" does not include Federal or local funds.

N-4. *An edit to this FAQ was posted January 13, 2010. The correct response is available below as well as in Addendum 5.*

What rules must States follow regarding contracting for services?

States that plan to use Race to the Top funds to procure services to support their Race to the Top plans must comply with Section XV of the Application, titled "Contracting for Services" (see Application, page 97). This section specifies that:

Generally, all procurement transactions by State or local educational agencies made with Race to the Top grant funds must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, consistent with the standards in Section 80.36 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR). This section requires that grantees use their own procurement procedures (which reflect State and local laws and regulations) to select contractors, provided that those procedures meet certain standards described in EDGAR.

Because grantees must use appropriate procurement procedures to select contractors, applicants should not include information in their grant applications about specific contractors that may be used to provide services or goods for the proposed project if a grant is awarded.

It is each State's responsibility to ensure that the requirements contained in Section XV are met. EDGAR is available at www.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html.